

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 859

By Norris

A RESOLUTION to recognize teacher and Tennessee Education Association president Barbara Gray on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize, particularly on the occasion of their retirement, those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Gray is one such estimable educator, who will soon enter into a well-deserved retirement, bringing to a close a stellar career that spanned nearly half a century; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of the late Willie Register, a union leader at International Paper, and Virginia Garcia, a retired school custodian, Barbara Gray is the oldest of nine children; she is a proud alumnus of Woodstock High School, LeMoyne-Owen College, and the University of Memphis and a proud member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Gray has served as a public school teacher and administrator in Tennessee for forty-six years, during which time she has distinguished herself as an exemplary educator and leader; and

WHEREAS, she has been a teacher in Memphis and Shelby County schools, serving in Raleigh Egypt High School and Millington Middle School; she was assistant principal at Millington Central Elementary School, Woodstock Middle School, Northaven School, and Arlington Middle School; and

WHEREAS, for the past four years, Barbara Gray has ably served as the president of the Tennessee Education Association (TEA), having previously served the organization as vice president and a member of the Executive Committee, West Tennessee Administrator TEA Board, Legislative Editing Committee, Instructional and Professional Development Committee, Minority Affairs Committee, and National Education Association Concerns Committee; and

WHEREAS, she has also served her local association, Shelby County Education Association, as president, vice president, and a member of the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Gray is an active and important part of her community and her profession, participating in numerous worthy organizations, including the Millington Church of Christ, serving as a bus captain and Bible school teacher; Jackson Street Church of Christ in Nashville while serving as president of the TEA; Millington Shelby Youth Sports, serving as assistant track coach; Millington Airport Authority; Millington PulAir Committee; the Shelby County Election Commission; and Women In the Community; and

WHEREAS, throughout her many successes, Ms. Gray has enjoyed the love and support of her children, Bryant Brooks, Yolanda Gray, and LoMay Richmond, and her grandchildren, Spencer Brooks, Alexis Richmond, Chelsea Richmond, and Brooklynn Richmond; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Gray exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Barbara Gray has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the sincere respect and admiration of her colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Barbara Gray our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.